

## UTAH HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## REBECCA LOCKHART SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

350 N. STATE ST., SUITE 350 SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84114 DISTRICT 64, UTAH COUNTY TEL: (801) 538-1930 FAX: (801) 326-1544 E-Mail: blockhart@utah.gov

Chairman Julius Genachowski: Commissioner Michael J. Copps: Commissioner Robert M. McDowell: Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker: Commissioner Mignor Clyburn:

Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW Washington, DC 20544

Re: WT Docket 11-65

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

I write to you today in support of the AT&T and T-Mobile merger. As Utah's Speaker of the House, I recognize the importance of this merger and its positive impact for Utah by bringing mobile broadband solutions to a significant amount of our rural population. Just as importantly, I also recognize its significance to our economic development efforts in urban areas such as Salt Lake City and Provo.

Utah prides itself as a technology leader in the West and has been fast to embrace new technology to support our many businesses, entrepreneurs, high tech and ranching industry and our local residents. With some of the leading medical institutions in the nation such as the University of Utah's Health Science Center, we believe in investing in the best infrastructure to support research and services that will improve people's lives. High speed technology and mobile broadband access is key to the success of all of these industries.

A nurse by profession, I am impressed with the evolution of technology and medicine and how telemedicine is reaching new audiences and serving people in ways that many of us never imagined. Through AT&T's expansion to most of Utah through its 4G LTE network, the benefits of telemedicine will reach so many rural areas – allowing for better served patients and opening doors for teaching and research applications through our universities and medical institutions.

The opportunity for growth across Utah is appealing as we serve vast territories that would take years to reach. The fact that private investment can bring some of the fastest mobile broadband speeds across Utah without taking funds from our state budget, which makes this transaction even more appealing. We take pride in our state investment to support our businesses, but we also know that we cannot do it alone.

We see this merger as a way to benefit all of our Utah residents and businesses, and we respectfully ask for your consideration of its impact on the state of Utah.

Rebecca Lockhart

Speaker of the House